



January 25, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

I understand the government decided to settle its three-year-long antitrust lawsuit with Microsoft Corp. This is very good news, because settlement is in the best interests of the State of Michigan, the IT industry, and the economy.

Microsoft did not get off easy, but the settlement is fair and reasonable, and it will definitely benefit consumers and preclude future anticompetitive behavior. The recession has had a devastating effect on state on state budgets and the federal budget, and it is important that the technology industry be allowed to concentrate on business now.

One of the main accomplishments of the settlement is Microsoft's agreement not to retaliate against computer makers who ship software that competes with Microsoft in its Windows operating system. Microsoft's competitors should be very pleased with this clause. Additionally, Microsoft agreed to share its software code for various interfaces that are internal to Windows with its competitors. This should make its competitors ecstatic. It is my hope that this can all be worked out and that the settlement can take effect as soon as possible. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Sanjeev Pareek". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sanjeev Pareek  
e-Business Analyst  
Internet Operations Center Inc